

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 080818
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM:PACLAPP:EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS:GP

APPROVED BY PM:LHGELB, DIRECTOR

S/S SGOLDSMITH

NSC:COLONEL DENEND

ACDA/WEC:DR. BLECHMAN

-----029288 292209Z /41

P 292057Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080818

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

SUMMARY: -- DEPARTMENT IS IN PROCESS OF DRAWING UP
AGENDA FOR COMING TALKS IN HELSINKI. WOULD APPRECIATE
EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF WHAT WE MIGHT EXPECT FROM THE SOVIET
SIDE. TO FACILITATE APPROACH BY AMBASSADOR TO MENDELEVICH
TO PROBE SOVIET PLANNING FOR MEETING, WE HAVE PREPARED A
MESSAGE FROM GELB TO MENDELEVICH FOR AMBASSADOR TO DELIVER.
END SUMMARY.

1. BEFORE WE APPROACH SOVIETS THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY HERE
ON PROPOSED AGENDA FOR HELSINKI MEETING, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON THE LINE SOVIETS ARE LIKELY
TO TAKE. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD POSE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS
TO EMBASSY: (EMBASSY RESPONSE NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO THESE).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 080818

----- ARE SOVIETS LIKELY TO RESPOND IN DETAIL TO OUR
GUIDELINES SUGGESTED IN DECEMBER MEETING?

----- OR WILL THEY TAKE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TACK?

----- DO THEY INTEND TO LEAD OFF WITH THEIR OWN PRESENTA-

TION? PERHAPS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS?

----- SHOULD WE BE ANTICIPATING AN ELABORATION OR
REITERATION OF THE LEGALISTIC QUESTIONS THEY RAISED IN
DECEMBER MEETING? (OR WAS THIS ONLY PECULIAR TO
KHLESTOV?)

----- WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIETS' NAMING
MENDELEVICH TO HEAD DELEGATION? SOVIET EXPECTATION OF
EXTENDED DIALOGUE?

----- SHOULD WE EXPECT SOVIETS TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PLANS
FOR DEALING WITH CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AT SSOD?
(WE ARE PREPARING TO DISCUSS THIS).

----- WHAT POLEMICS CAN WE EXPECT, ESPECIALLY ANY AIMED
AT US ACTIVITIES IN PARTICULAR REGIONS?

----- ARE THEY LIKELY TO LINK CAT TO BROADER DISARMAMENT
PICTURE, E.G. CRITICISM OF US FOR LACK OF DISARMAMENT
ACTIONS?

2. WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM GELB TO
MENDELEVICH.
AMBASSADOR SHOULD DELIVER THIS TO MENDELEVICH, REQUESTING
SOVIET ANSWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 080818

BEGIN TEXT: -- "I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF YOUR
DESIGNATION AS THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO OUR
FORTHCOMING SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS
TRANSFERS. THE US SIDE IS APPROACHING THESE TALKS
SERIOUSLY, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE IN
HELSINKI TO DEVELOP APPROACHES AND ELABORATE SOME OF THE
ASPECTS OF THE ISSUES WHICH I DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR
KHLESTOV IN WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER. IN THIS REGARD, I
WOULD WELCOME YOUR PRELIMINARY COMMENTS IN ADVANCE OF OUR
MEETING IN HELSINKI ON ANY MATTERS WHICH YOU BELIEVE WILL
ASSIST IN MAKING THIS SESSION AS PRODUCTIVE AS POSSIBLE.
YOUR DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR TOON WILL BE USEFUL IN THIS
RESPECT, ESPECIALLY SINCE ONE OF HIS EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL
BE JOINING THE US DELEGATION TO THE HELSINKI TALKS. AGAIN,
AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN
HELSINKI ON MAY 4TH. END TEXT.

3. FYI -- WE HAVE HANDED THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE A
PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING FORTHCOMING MEETING, BUT
HAVE NOT HEARD BACK FROM THEM YET. THIS, THE AGENDA, AND
THE ABOVE MESSAGE ARE THE ONLY MATERIALS WE ANTICIPATE

PASSING PRIOR TO THE HELSINKI MEETING. WILL ADVISE
EMBASSY WHEN WE HEAR ABOUT PRESS RELEASE AND WHEN WE
HAVE DRAFTED AN AGENDA. COOPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE080818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PACLAPP:EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS:GP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-1095
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780312/aaaaajrr.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ffbad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3155376
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SOVIET TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS SUMMARY: -- DEPARTMENT IS IN PROCESS OF DRAWING UP AGENDA FOR COMING TALKS IN HELSINKI. WOULD APPREC
TAGS: PARM, PCAT, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ffbad1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014